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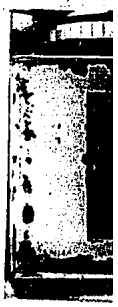

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USSR FOOD INDUSTRY CITES POSTWAR RECOVERY, DEVELOPMENT

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

Relocation and Investment

During the prewar Five-Year Plans, construction of powerful meat trusts, sugar plants, and fats and oils plants was begun in the eastern part of the USSR. After the war, although the greater part of the food industry's capital investment was spent in reconstruction of enterprises which had suffered as the result of temporary occupation and military action, construction of food enterprises in the east continued. Because of the wider distribution of enterprises, the shipment of many goods from Moscow, Leningrad, and the Belorussian SSR was eliminated. The tobacco industry raised the proportion of cigarette production in eastern consumption areas to 35 percent of total production and reduced cigarette exports from the central part of the country. The total capacity of the new eastern sugar plants constitutes 11 percent of the entire capacity of the sugar industry. During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the fats and oils industry increased production capacities of the fats and oils plants in Central Asia 1.5 times. A wider distribution of enterprises has also been taking place in the salt, beer, alcohol, and canning industries.(1) During the war years, the food industry built and put into operation more than 120 sugar, fats and oils, alcohol, canning, confectionery, and tobacco enterprises in eastern USSR.(2)

In the 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan, more than 9 million rubles of capital investment were allotted to restoration and construction of enterprises of the Ministry of Food Industry USSR. With this sum, the industry was able to restore and build more than 800 large-scale enterprises and shops, and consequently was able to exceed the prewar level of production all branches of the food industry.(1)

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Equipment and Techniques

In the postwar period, the food industry received tens of thousands of units of technological equipment, a great number of assembly lines, loading and unloading machines, and other mechanisms.(1) The number of refrigeration units increased six times over 1940, and total refrigeration production capacity increased five times. Maximum utilization of refrigeration in the food industry is of paramount importance. All branches of the food industry need refrigeration, not only as a better means of preserving products, but for use in many technological processes.

Due to the development of socialist competition and utilization of advanced techniques, labor productivity of food enterprises increased during the postwar Five-Year Plan. The output per worker was raised 40 percent as a whole by the industry during this period.(2) The increase for individual industries were as follows: sugar 2 times, bread-baking and canning 50 percent, and fats and oils 100 percent. In 1950, food industry labor productivity was 105.8 percent of the 1940 level; in 1951, it increased 6.5 percent over 1950.

However, there are a number of enterprises not fulfilling the plans set for them by the government. For example, in the wine-making industry, more than 10 percent of the total number of enterprises did not fulfill the 1951 production plan. In individual enterprises, losses are large because of wasteful expenditures, poor storage of raw materials, and failure to eliminate mismanagement.(1)

Production and Sales

In 1950, the sale of food products in state and cooperative stores, excluding the sale of goods produced from local raw materials, increased over 1940 as follows: meat and meat products 38 percent, fish products 51 percent, butter 59 percent, vegetable fats and oils 67 percent, sugar 33 percent, confectionery goods 34 percent, etc.

In 1950, the prewar level of production of food products was exceeded as follows: sugar 17 percent, butter 57 percent, vegetable oils and other fats 10 percent, meat 7 percent, sausage products 20 percent, canned goods 48 percent, confectionery goods 23 percent, margarine 63 percent, cigarettes 25 percent, fish catch 27 percent, vitamins 9 times.

The food industry plan for the first half of 1951 was fulfilled 104.8 percent, and for the third quarter of 1951, 109 percent.(2) In 1951, the sale of food products in government and cooperative stores alone (not counting the kolkhoz market) increased over 1950 as follows: butter 10 percent, vegetable oils 40 percent, sugar 29 percent, canned goods 27 percent, sausage products 29 percent.

In 1951, production of food products increased as follows over 1940: sausage products and smoked meat 142 percent, smoked fish 127 percent, canned fish 278 percent, loaf bread and small bread products 210 percent, wrapped candy 207 percent, refined sugar in packages 198 percent, margarine in small packages 45 times, tea in small packages more than 200 percent, packaged salt 156 percent, grape wine in bottles 150 percent, bottled beer 232 percent, and packaged cigarettes 294 percent.

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Bread-Baking Industry

Before the war, the USSR flour-milling industry was distributed as follows: 40 percent in the Ukrainian SSR, Northern Caucasus, and central chernozem region, 20 percent in the Volga Region, 20 percent in eastern regions, 5 percent in Transcaucasia, and 5 percent in Moscow and Leningrad. Before the war, milling enterprises numbered nearly 150,000. Nearly two thirds of them were wind driven.(3)

In 1950, production of prime-quality bread products from graded flour increased 50 percent over prewar.(2)

As of 1 January 1952, the bread-baking industry had four times more improved conveyer ovens, 1.6 times more dough-kneading machines, 3.5 times more dough-separating machines, and 1.7 times more sifting machines than in 1950. The following level of mechanization was obtained by the industry: dough-kneading 95 percent, flour sifting 93 percent, dough separation into pieces 65 percent, and bread baking in conveyer ovens 75 percent.(1)

Sugar Industry

The most essential problem of the sugar beet industry is the length of the production season. Before the revolution, the production season of many sugar beet plants lasted all in all only 60 or 70 days. The saccharinity of the beet somewhat deteriorates when the season is lengthened. After 5 or 6 months of storage, the saccharinity of the sugar beet drops from 17 to 14 percent. In order to lengthen the production season and still prevent the beet from spoiling, it must be dried or frozen. However, the climatic conditions of the region must be taken into consideration. Beet preservation by means of the freezing method can be used with much greater success in Western Siberia than, for example, in the Ukrainian SSR, where the thaws could spoil the frozen beet.

The area planted to sugar beets increased from 650,000 hectares in 1937 to 1,135,000 hectares in 1940. The gross harvest of sugar beets for that same period increased from 98 million quintals to 164 million quintals in 1940 (the greatest harvest was in 1937, with 214 million quintals). During the Five-Year Plans, the sugar beet began to be grown in new regions such as the Armenian, Kazakh, and Kirgiz SSRs, Northern Caucasus, the lower Volga Region, the Bashkir ASSR, Altai Kray, and Primorskiy Kray.

In 1913, Russia (within the boundaries of USSR as of 1937) produced nearly 10 million quintals of sugar; in 1937, it produced nearly 24 million quintals.

Up to the time of the war, 20 new sugar beet plants had been constructed. Of these 20, the following plants were built in new sugar beet regions; the Biysk and Aleysk plants in Altai Kray, the Merkinskiy and Taldy-Kurgansk plants in Kazakh SSR, the Plant imeni Frunze in the Kirgiz SSR, the Agara Plant in the Georgian SSR, and the Plant imeni Kalinin in Voroshilovsk in the Far East. The climatic and soil conditions of these regions are very favorable for sugar beet cultivation. The new plants were constructed with a sugar-beet-processing capacity of 8,000-12,000 quintals a day and higher. The total productive capacity of 11 sugar beet plants in the new regions was nearly 100,000 quintals a day. During the Five-Year Plans, the following plants were constructed in old sugar beet regions: the Plant imeni Stalin in Poltava Oblast, the Kupyansk Plant in Khar'kov Oblast, the Shpolyanskiy Plant in Kiev Oblast, the Ertelevskiy Plant in Voronezh Oblast, and the Zherdevskiy Plant in Tambov Oblast. The Kazakh and Kirgiz SSRs are regions especially suited to cultivation of the sugar beet.

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The distribution of sugar-beet-plant production before the war was as follows:

	Percent
Ukrainian SSR	75.8
Center	17.6
Kirgiz SSR	2.4
Northern Caucasus	1.5
Kazakh SSR	1.8
Far East	0.5
Volga Region	0.4
	100.0

The sugar industry suffered greater losses from the war than any other branch of the food industry. During the war years, nine sugar beet plants were constructed in the east as a base for evacuated equipment and equipment recently produced by Soviet machine-building plants. USSR sugar production was greatly retarded as a result of the war. Sugar production in 1945 was on a level with that of 1930 - 1932. Restoration of plants was begun in the first postwar year. By the beginning of 1946, 175 sugar plants had been restored.

The 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan provides for construction of ten new and 92 completely restored plants. The 1950 sugar production will amount to 24 million quintals, i.e., prewar level, and will be almost five times greater than 1945 production. The total number of plants will be brought up to 223 by the end of the postwar Five-Year Plan. (3)

During the sugar-processing season of 1950, the industry had 210 sugar plants in operation. New techniques changed labor conditions in sugar plants and made possible higher production indexes as compared with 1940. This is apparent from the following data:

	Percent of Weight of Beets	
	1940	1950
Sugar yield	12.7	14.05
Sugar loss	1.09	0.97
Residual sugar content in syrup	2.27	2.06
Expenditure of fuel [sic]	9.64	9.56

Production of packaged sugar cubes in 1950 increased 1.5 times over 1940. (2)

The sugar yield from beets has been raised 10.5 percent as compared with prewar. (1)

Meat Industry

In 1913, Russia had nearly 10,000 meat enterprises, of which only 13 were large-scale slaughterhouses having stone buildings, water supply, and sewerage system. More than a third of all slaughtering points belonged to city establishments. During the Five-Year Plans, more than 30 meat combines were constructed.

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Before the war, the Moscow Combine processed more than 11,000 head of cattle a day. The dimensions of this enterprise are as follows: it occupies an area of 56 hectares, has 26 kilometers of livestock runway, and consumes nearly 160 million vedro (one vedro equals 12.299 liters) of water a year. The Leningrad Combine, which was put into operation at almost the same time as the Moscow Combine (1913), is the same type of enterprise.

The distribution of USSR meat production before the war was as follows: nearly one sixth was located in Moscow Oblast, nearly one eighth in Leningrad Oblast, nearly one third in the Ukrainian SSR, nearly 6 percent in the Kazakh SSR, and approximately 12 percent in Western Siberia. New meat combines were built in the Northern Caucasus, the Volga Region, the Urals, and in Western Siberia.

According to the 1939 census, there were in the USSR 82 cities with a population of more than 100,000 people and 174 cities with a population of more than 50,000 people. Since the average yearly consumption of meat for one man is about 60 kilograms, approximately 6,000 metric tons of meat would be needed for a city of 100,000 inhabitants and a meat combine with a production capacity of nearly 3,000 metric tons of meat a year is needed for a city of 50,000 inhabitants. Accordingly, during the 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan, 41 meat combines must be restored and enlarged and 36 new meat combines constructed.(3)

Fish Industry

The fish catch in Russia in 1913 consisted of approximately 8.5 million quintals. About two thirds of the catch came from the Caspian Sea, with 10 percent from the Azov-Black Sea Basin, nearly 7 percent from the European North, and nearly 10 percent from the far eastern basins.

The prewar fish catch was nearly 16 million quintals. Distribution by regions was as follows: nearly one third in the Caspian Sea and nearly one fifth in the Azov-Black Sea Basin. In reducing the role of the Caspian Sea, the proportion of fish catching for the northern basins increased sharply (the Barents and White Seas increased to 18 percent as compared with 12 percent in 1913; the proportion of the Far East increased to 23 percent as compared with 12 percent in 1913).

The 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan specifies the increase in the country's fish catch by 57 percent over 1940. In 1950, two times more fishing trawlers will be in operation in the north than before the war. In the far east, the fish catch must be increased 2.5 times. In 1950, it will comprise more than one third of the total fish catch for the country.(3)

Canning Industry

During the Five-Year Plans, the Soviet canning industry was extensively developed. Before the war, the average annual capacity of an enterprise in the USSR consisted of 20 million jars.

The temporary occupation of a number of regions of the country inflicted great damage on the canning industry. The largest canning combines, imeni Stalin in Kherson and imeni Mikoyan in the Crimean, Stanitsa in Krasnodar Kray, as well as large plants in Odessa, Krasnodar, and Kropotkin were destroyed. Three fourths of all technological equipment of the canning industry was put out of commission. During the war, eight new canneries were constructed in the eastern regions of the country.(3)

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Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/08/19 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000700070120-9

50X1-HUM

The 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan assignment for the restoration of 24 canneries and the construction of seven new canneries has been fulfilled on the whole.(2)

Fats and Oils Industry

In 1913, the fats and oils industry of Russia produced nearly 480,000 metric tons of vegetable oils. In 1940 the Soviet fats and oils industry produced nearly 700,000 metric tons of vegetable oils, i.e., almost 1.5 times as much as in 1913.

The zone of military operations encompassed that of the fats and oils industry. Out of 148 fats and oils plants, 91 plants fell into the zone of occupation. Of these, only three plants, with a capacity of 150,000 metric tons, were saved. During the war years, 12 new fats and oils plants were built in the country's eastern regions, including the large oil-extraction plant in Chimkent.

In the 1946 - 1950 Five-Year Plan, oleaginous crops will be given greater emphasis. The sunflower will take the leading place among the oleaginous crops, as before the war. The gross harvest of the sunflower in 1950 must amount to 3.7 million metric tons as compared with 3.2 million metric tons in 1940.(3)

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the number of hydraulic press plants was reduced to a third of the number existing before the war. More than half of all plants have been equipped with screw presses. The number of oil-extraction plants has tripled. As of 1951, 67 percent of the total production capacity of the fats and oils industry had been equipped with screw presses. During the period from 1946 to 1950, the industry produced an additional 55,000 metric tons of oil without additional consumption of raw materials. The production of a similar quantity of oil, using previously applied techniques, would have required processing an additional 275,000 metric tons of oil seeds.(2) At the end of 1951, 72 percent of the total production capacity of fats and oils enterprises had been equipped with the newest continuously-operating screw presses and improved extracting machinery.(1)

Other Industries

In 1950, production of wrapped and packaged margarine had increased 19 times over 1940. Packaging of margarine has been 25 percent mechanized.

In 1950, the production of wrapped candies increased 75 percent over 1940.(2)

In the confectionery industry, the number of wrapping machines is double prewar, and wrapping is now 40 percent mechanized. In large confectionery plants, individual production operations for wrapping, packaging, and packing are mechanized. In the Krasnyy Oktyabr Confectionery Factory in Moscow, a mechanized conveyer production line for wrapping filled caramels was installed in 1951, thereby eliminating heavy labor-consuming operations with hot caramel masses.(1)

The enormous growth of demand for alcohol for technical use has sharply altered the allocation of alcohol production. In Tsarist Russia, 94 percent of all alcohol was used in the production of vodka; in the USSR, 75 percent of all alcohol is directed to technical needs. In 1950, as a result of the utilization of new techniques, 900,000 decaliters of alcohol were obtained with no additional consumption of raw materials. Normally, 33,000 metric tons of grain are required to produce this quantity of alcohol.(2) In 1951, 47,000 metric tons of grain were saved as a result of technical progress. The alcohol yield from potatoes has been raised 7 percent over prewar.(1)

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The salt industry stands out sharply from all other food industries in the degree of mechanization attained. Present salt pumps are capable of extracting salt from lake water at a depth of 5 feet, and have increased the removal of salt from one square meter of lake surface to 5 metric tons. Mining processes for both rock and lake salt have been 87 percent mechanized.

Tea industry facilities for preliminary processing of tea have increased 1.5 times over 1940. During the Fourth Five-Year Plan, eight new tea factories were built and 14 more are still under construction.

In 1950, the total production of cigarettes increased four times over 1940 and production of packaged cigarettes doubled in comparison with prewar. The capacity of cigarette-rolling machines has increased four times over prewar.(2)

SOURCES

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